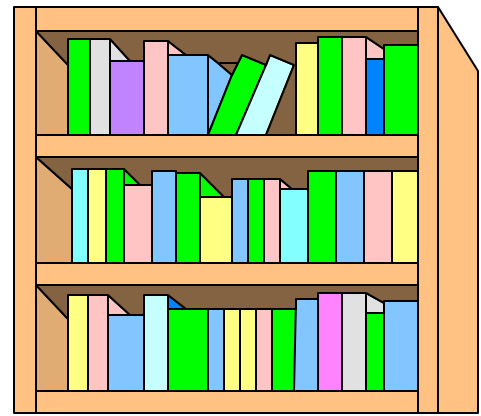


# A Letter to Parents on the Library

## What We Do and Why

The library area is an essential part of our program and of your child's life. It's where children gain the foundations for reading and writing. It's also a place where children can relax and enjoy the wonderful world of children's literature.



We encourage children to use the library on their own. We invite them to look at books, to listen to taped stories, and to scribble and "write" throughout the day. We also work with children one-on-one and in small groups. Sometimes children dictate stories to us, which we record in "books."

Every day we read stories to the children. We read books to introduce new ideas, to develop reading skills, to help children deal with problems, and mostly to develop a love for books. Here are some of the things we do with children as we read:

- We look at pictures together and ask children questions: "What is that silly cat doing?"
- We encourage children to predict what will happen next: "What do you suppose will happen now?"
- We encourage children to repeat words, rhymes, and phrases they've memorized.

## What You Can Do At Home

If you're interested in setting up a home library for your child, here are some suggestions:

- Designate a place in the house where your child can independently read, write, look at magazines, and listen to tapes.
- Decorate the chosen area with pictures (preferably homemade by your child) and plants.
- Add pillows and soft furniture to this area so your child feels relaxed and happy here.
- If bookshelves are not available, cover sturdy diaper boxes (large size) with contact paper and use as bookcases, or use wooden or plastic crates as bookshelves.

If you'd like some guidance on choosing books or tapes for your home library, please come see us. We have an excellent bibliography of recommended children's books that we'd be delighted to share. You can draw on the resources of your public library to keep your child's home library well stocked.

Books, tapes, and writing materials are wonderful ways to help children learn. When you take time to read to your child every day, you are doing the very best thing to help your child grow up to be a successful reader.